

stranger at the gate. After uttering this note the adult ran off leaving the cubs to shift for themselves. I suspect that the short bark was a note of warning to the cubs and not one of fear or anger.

Local jackals are very fond of ripe mango, jack and cashew fruits. They consume large numbers of the fruit of the fishtail palm also and are largely responsible for the dispersal of the seed. Jackals are said to be a great scourge to vegetable gardeners for they have a great weakness for cucumber and melon.

At 11.30 a.m. on 20-iii-69 a grey adult jackal carried off a month-old goat kid. It was the sudden hue and cry raised by koels, racket-tailed drongos and jungle crows that drew our attention to the jackal on this occasion. The koel I have found gets greatly upset and excited every time it notices a jackal passing. Common mynas utter their harsh alarm notes only at times, perhaps only when one of them is on the ground or is a juvenile. Crows normally ignore the jackal unless it happens to be carrying something in its mouth.

GOVT. BRENNEN COLLEGE,
DHARMADAM, TELlicherry,
April 23, 1969.

K. K. NEELAKANTAN

4. OCCURRENCE OF THE WOOLLY FLYING SQUIRREL, *EUPETAURUS CINEREUS* THOMAS (MAMMALIA : RODENTIA : SCIURIDAE) IN NORTH SIKKIM

Recently a specimen collected from North Sikkim (alt. 3000 metres) was sent by the Director (Locust Control) for Plant Protection, to this department for identification and subsequent donation to the National Zoological Collections. It has been identified as *Eupetaurus cinereus* Thomas, which according to authoritative literature (Blanford 1888 ; Ellerman & Morrison-Scott 1951 ; Ellerman 1963) is expected to occur only in Kashmir and Chitral (West Pakistan). The specimen in question is a flat skin without skull. In external characters it is very similar to the description given in standard literature and the 'Cotype' present in the collection of the Zoological Survey of India. There are, however, some minor differences as mentioned below.

Dorsal hairs slaty on base and grey at tip, giving it a slate-grey appearance with slate dominating as against the grey colour of the 'Cotype'. The tail almost of the same colour as body but the tips of hairs are rusty-grey. Ventral colour light ashy with a median longitudinal line of coarse hairs, light grey in colour. Due to lack of sufficient material and the date of collection of the specimen under report, it is difficult to say whether this difference in coloration is a seasonal variation

or subspecific. However, the occurrence of this species in Sikkim extends its distribution far eastwards, which is recorded.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
8 LINDSAY STREET,
CALCUTTA-16,
July 4, 1969.

V. C. AGRAWAL
S. CHAKRABARTY

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5. A NOTE ON *CICONIA NIGRA* (LINNAEUS) IN WEST PAKISTAN

The Black Stork (*C. nigra*) like the only other truly Palaearctic stork (*C. ciconia*) which visits the sub-continent in winter is also very rare and usually the only sight one is vouchsafed nowadays is a distant view of one or at the most 2 or 3 birds on some inaccessible sand-spit in the Indus or one of its main tributaries. Over the past six or seven years my own records include only two January sightings of solitary individuals at Panjnad Headworks on the Indus, plus a pair on the Chenab River on March the 10th above Marala Headworks. D. A. Holmes during three years intensive observations in Sind from 1962-65 saw only three solitary birds; one near Hyderabad and two near Sukkur on the Indus (Pers. Comm. 1969). Even Dr. Ticehurst, fifty years ago saw only 'a few individuals about the Indus and Karachi harbour' (Ticehurst 1923). It has therefore been an exciting discovery to find that Lal Soharan Reservoirs in the former Bahawalpur State attract considerable numbers of Black Storks and this locality is probably one of the main resting areas and concentration points for the species on its northward migration, as far as the whole sub-continent is concerned.

Lal Soharan on the border of the Cholistan Desert (approx. 29° 20'N. 72° 0'E.) has, by happy coincidence, been declared as a Wild Life Reserve by gazetted notification of the Government of Pakistan in November 1968. This has been a direct outcome of the two WWF missions led by Guy Mountfort to Pakistan in 1966 & 1967 to examine the status of the larger wild life species and to make recommendations for establishing National Parks and Wild Life Reserves (See WWF Projects No. 201 & 311—Second Report of the World Wildlife Fund 1965-67). The Reserve area comprising 85216 acres includes extensive undisturbed semi-desert